

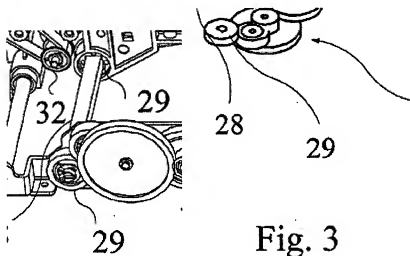
REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-17 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Drawing Objection

The Examiner objects to the drawings alleging the convex and concave portions of claim 3 are not shown.

In response, Applicant requests that the Examiner refer to the portions of FIG. 2 and FIG. 3 reproduced below which illustrate cartridge picker gear 29 which is an exemplary coupling device from transmitting torque to the rotary shaft.



As illustrated in these figures, a non-limiting exemplary embodiment of the coupling device (cartridge picker gear 29) shows a concave portion in a cross section. The rectangular shaft 28 is fitted into this opening as shown in FIG. 2, having the opposing convex surface, and bound on the outside in FIG. 2 with a clip.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits this feature is illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, and thus request that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claim s1-3 and 11-17 stand rejected as being anticipated by Takeshi (JP 2002-025167).

Applicant traverses this rejection as follows.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “wherein said picker has a gripper which includes first and second parts which are linked to each other rotatably around an axis, said first parts comprises hook shape, wherein said carriage has cams which make said gripper open or close in response to the movement of said picker, wherein said first parts move pivotally about said axis and opens for hooking notches of said storage medium by said cams.”

The present invention as recited in claim 1 relates the technique which transmits a storage medium from a holder. When a gripper transmits the storage medium from the holder, the storage medium cannot be removed easily. Because, the first parts of the gripper hook notches the storage medium, the first parts generates a force in a direction opposite to a storage medium pulling direction. In this way hook the notches of storage medium, the first parts move pivotally about an axis.

Further, in the present invention as recited in claim 1, the first parts move pivotally by cams, therefore, there is no need to install a mechanism, e.g. a motor etc. Thus, the weight and the power consumption of the device may be reduced.

In the rejection, the Examiner contends Takeshi discloses these features. However, Applicant respectfully notes that Takeshi fails to disclose any such gripper. Specifically,

Takeshi discloses an auto changer which has hooks 3. However, these hooks 3 are rigid, not composed of first and second parts which are linked to each other rotatably.

Consequently, Takeshi fails to disclose all the features recited in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 11-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi (JP 2002-025167) in view of Yoshieda (US 4,655,662)

In this rejection, with reference to the application of Takeshi under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), alleges if it is somehow determined that said carriage lacks cams which make said gripper open or close in response to the movement of said picker, Yoshieda would compensate for such a deficiency. Specifically, the Examiner contends Yoshieda discloses a picker 15 with a gripper 17 which includes first and second parts which are linked to each other rotatably around an axis. (*Office Action*, p. 5). Applicant respectfully submits Yoshieda fails to compensate for the above noted deficiencies of Takeshi.

In particular, Yoshieda disclosing a gripper does not teach or suggest the gripper of the present invention. In Yoshieda, the gripper pinches the target, rather than a hook. So, the gripper of Yoshieda teaches away from the gripper of the present invention as recited in claim 1. Further, when the gripper of the Yoshieda is applied to the technique which transmits a storage medium from the holder, the possibility that the storage medium removes from the gripper will increase. Because the gripper of Yoshieda cannot hook the storage medium, the force against the force toward a direction opposite to a storage medium pulling direction is weaker than that of the present invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5 and 8-10 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeshi in view of Ono (JP 03-147564). Applicant traverses this rejection as follows.

Applicant submits that because Ono, either taken alone or in combination with Takeshi, fails to compensate for the above noted deficiencies of Takeshi as applied to claim 1, that claims 4, 5 and 8-10 are allowable, at least because of their dependency.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

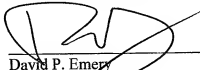
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